



UPDATE

Montana Department of Commerce

A Grand Time for the Grand Opening

After nine years filled with hopes, plans and hard work, the Fort Peck Dam Interpretive Center and Museum will have its Grand Opening on Saturday, May 7, 2005. A unique, three-way partnership between the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Fort Peck Paleontology, Inc., and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has made this world-class interpretive center a reality.

The Fort Peck Interpretive Center and Museum is one of 13 facilities in ten central and eastern Montana communities that make up the Montana Dinosaur Trail. Each of the trail facilities feature unique paleontology displays, and many have paleo programs and/or access to public field dig opportunities.

The grand opening will kick off with a ribbon-cutting ceremony, which will open the Center for public viewing, with a variety of exhibits that showcase the wildlife, history, paleontology, and recreational resources of northeastern Montana. The grand opening activities coincide with Lewis and Clark Bicentennial celebrations in nearby towns.

The Center and Museum feature exhibits profiling the wildlife, paleontology, and cultural history of the Fort Peck area. A large paleontology exhibit features both a life-size fleshed out model of Peck's Rex (known as one of the world's premier T-rex specimens, discovered in 1997 near Fort Peck, MT) and a skeleton cast of this amazing discovery as well. Other dinosaur species make up the remainder of the paleontology exhibit. Other features of the Center are two large aquariums, one 8,500 gallons and the other 5,500 gallons, showcasing native and introduced fish species of Fort Peck Lake and the Missouri River. For more information, contact the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers at

406-526-3411, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service at 406-526-3464 or Fort Peck Paleontology, Inc. at 406-526-3539.

THE MONTANA DINOSAUR TRAIL



Stomping Ground Unveiled

A unique partnership of dinosaur-themed attractions in Big Sky Country—known as the Montana Dinosaur Trail—is letting visitors follow in the footsteps of these prehistoric giants. This partnership between 13 facilities in ten Montana communities features significant, unique and world-class paleontology displays and activities for visitors. From Bynum to Bozeman, Malta to Ekalaka and Glendive to Fort Peck, visitors use a brochure and web portal that features a map to help visitors find all thirteen Montana Dinosaur Trail stops. These stops include museums, interpretive centers, state parks and field stations throughout four tourism regions. For more information or to request a Montana Dinosaur Trail brochure, call 1-800-VISIT-MT or go to www.visitmt.com.

We "Celebrate(d) The Montana Experience!"

Thanks to everyone—that's over 450 people—who Celebrated the Montana Experience during the 31st Annual Governor's Conference on Tourism and Recreation held in Helena. Many conference participants said they had fun, gathered new ideas for their businesses and

communities and are excited for the 2005 tourism year.

New this year were field trips hosted by Helena, which included a ghost tour, an arts and cultural tour and film and walking tour of Montana's capital city. If you were unable to attend or want further information from the breakout sessions, the Montana Promotional Division has posted the electronic presentations and notes from roundtable discussions on the intranet site, travelmontana.mt.gov, in the Governor's Conference speaker and presentation page.

Next year, the Conference travels to the "Electric City" for its first-ever appearance in Great Falls. Mark your calendars to attend the 32nd conference April 10-11, 2006.

Tourism Award Winners

Four statewide tourism award winners were honored for their achievement by the Montana Tourism and Recreation Industry at the 2005 Montana Governor's Conference in Helena. Lieutenant Governor John Bohlinger presented the 2005 statewide tourism awards to:

Dr. Joseph Medicine Crow—
Tourism Person of the Year

Livingston—Tourism Community
of the Year

Augusta American Legion Rodeo—
Tourism Event of the Year

Russell Country Tourism Region and the
Great Falls Convention and Visitors
Bureau—Tourism Partnership of the Year.

Dr. Medicine Crow, a past official Crow Tribal Historian, was honored for a lifetime of work protecting and promoting Crow Culture while building bridges with non-Indians through cultural education and outreach. This bridge included writing the original outline and script for the Custer's

Last Stand Reenactment held each June near Hardin, as well as authoring several books, and serving as an advisor and speaker in a variety of venues. Livingston's commitment to the preservation and promotion of its historic downtown buildings, including art galleries, restaurants and entertainment sites, attracts cultural and heritage visitors as well as various film industry projects. The Augusta Legion Rodeo, which began as a small local rodeo in 1933, now hosts over 3,000 people to its town for the annual event with parades, art show, and of course, rodeo. (This year, this town of 300 will host the rodeo on June 26, 2005.) The final award, Tourism Partnership, recognized the pooling of financial and technical marketing resources to produce larger, more attractive ad campaigns and travel guides. So, congratulations on a job well done and celebrate their achievements in your community!

Winter Advertising Opportunities

Preparations have begun on the 2005-2006 Montana Winter Guide, which will be available for distribution in August 2005. This four-color, glossy magazine features Montana's downhill and nordic ski areas, resorts, accommodations, snowmobiling, snowcoach tours, guided services and transportation. Advertorial space is available in full, half and quarter page

sizes, as well as 70-word directory listings. The deadline for placing an ad is April 29, 2005. For more information, contact Bev Veneziano at 406-841-2898 or bev@visitmt.com.

SEGP Recipients

Nine communities throughout Montana were awarded a total of \$50,000 from the Montana Department of Commerce, Promotion Division's Special Events Grant Program (SEGP). This program utilized "bed tax" funds to assist in the promotion and implementation of tourism-related events.

The nine 2005 SEGP awards are:

- \$6,500: Philipsburg—Art & Jazz on Broadway
- \$6,900: Roundup—Roundup 4th of July Festival
- \$6,100: Eureka—Eureka Quilt Show
- \$2,500: Livingston—Park County Studio Tour
- \$2,500: Glendive—Music in Makoshika
- \$6,000: Miles City—Clark on the Lower Yellowstone
- \$10,000: West Yellowstone—West Yellowstone Snow Blast
- \$7,000: Missoula—Garden City River Rod Run
- \$2,500: Chester—HiLine Crazy Daze

The SEGP was developed in 2002 to assist communities with economic development through the creation of new annual, ongoing events. Grant funds are available for event marketing, equipment rental, insurance, performer fees, security and mailings. To date, the SEGP program has provided \$251,000 in

tourism "bed tax" funds to 36 events in 27 Montana communities.

The deadline for the next round of grant applications will be mid-January 2006. For information, contact the Montana Promotion Division at 406-841-2870.



Fine Dining—L&C Style

Enjoy lunch with the Corps on the riverbanks in Fort Benton or at the great falls of the Missouri River during "Explore the Big Sky" this June and July. Enjoy a bison BBQ, ice cream social or community feast as you celebrate the 34-day event. For more information, contact www.explorethebigsky.org/events.

Alternative accessible formats of this document will be provided to disabled persons on request.

Calendar of Events

April

- 6-7 Affordable Meetings Mid-America in Chicago, IL
- 14-16 RMI Round-Up in Boise, ID
- 15-17 Locations Trade Show in Santa Monica, CA
- 17-21 MT post Round-Up fam tour
- 29 Winter Guide ad deadline

For all of the latest Montana tourism industry information log on to:
travelmontana.state.mt.us

The Corps of Discovery II: 200 Years to the Future

This bicentennial commemorative exhibit, led by the National Park Service, rolls into Poplar, May 6-9, 2005. The mobile exhibit draws on many people to bring the exhibit to life: American Indians, historic military and frontier re-enactors, artists, mapmakers and storytellers. For details, dates and locations where you can visit the exhibit throughout Montana, log onto www.lewisandclarkgnet.com.



Travel Montana • Montana Film Office
Montana Department of Commerce

301 S. Park
PO Box 200533
Helena, MT 59620-0533

STD PRSRT
U.S. Postage
PAID
Helena, MT
Permit No. 20